

REMARKS

Status of the claims

Claims 2, 3, 5-13, 26-34, 83-85, 87, and 89-98 were pending in the present application. Claims 83-85 and 87 were previously withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected invention. By virtue of this response, claims 2, 90, 96, and 97 have been amended and new claim 99 has been added. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 5-13, 26-34, 83-85, 87, and 89-99 are currently under consideration.

With respect to any claim amendments or cancellations, Applicants have not dedicated to the public or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter and moreover have not acquiesced to any rejections and/or objections made by the Patent Office. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently excluded subject matter or claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional application(s).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 2, 3, 5-13, 26-34, 90, 93-94, and 98 are rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement, with respect to the claim language “comprising a DNA binding domain having at least 90% sequence identity to a DNA binding domain of amino acid residues 45-109 of SEQ ID NO:19.”

Solely to expedite prosecution and without acquiescence to the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims herein to delete the “at least 90% sequence identity” language with respect to amino acids 45-109 of SEQ ID NO:19.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 07-1048, referencing Docket No. GC590-2-C1. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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